

Charlotte Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2018
Charlotte Town Offices
7:00 PM

Members in attendance: Amos Baehr, Roel Boumans, Mary VanVleck, Derk Bergquist, Krista Hoffsis.

Visitors: Selina Peyser, Melanie Peyser, Greg Peyser, Sue Smith.

Minutes by Kevin Burget

7:00 - Forest Management Plan for 700 Mt. Philo Plan needs review by CCC before Planning Commission makes its decision.

Motion to form a working group to meet Thursday 8/30 to consider Forest Management Plan 4pm-5pm. Seconded. Passed.

In-person review with Peysers of house-site map and its impact on wetland.

7:30 - Clark Hinsdale proposing a development in East Charlotte adjacent to new Solar Farm. Sketch plan and site visit October 4. Need to attend. Hinsdale's plan is for high density development and some transfer development rights to his brother. What kind of habitat is being traded? The site visits are two: the first on Hinesburg Rd, the second on Rt. 7. To decide at September meeting how to cover this.

Proximity to bobcat crossing, game-cam location. Imperative to get them up quickly.

7:40 - Sue Smith, Charlotte Deputy Tree Warden.

Money for Bob Higham's to spray ROW through town. \$1000/yr typically. Junior taking over some of this.

Thompson's Point. Town owns and derives income from leases. Also many fields not being managed. Superintendent's Lot needs to be looked at, as it is overrun by invasives, knotweed, buckthorn, honeysuckle. Larry Hamilton had done some work there. Request to put some funds in invasive plant budget to hire labor with chainsaws etc. A lot of public access to this land exists.

It will be an incremental process to tackle all areas of concern on Thompson's Point, with a start at the Superintendent's Lot. About 6 volunteers identified. Leaseholder's boat lot. An old barbed wire fence also needs to be removed by volunteer labor.

Sue considers need to increase to \$1500. Bob's portion will decrease, but offset by these needs. \$400 Bob's needs, leaving \$600 with current budget allocated. In the park, \$1000-\$2000 is spent every winter on a plant project.

Susan provided handouts from Tonino, President of the Leaseholder's Association. CCC usually presents CHIC - Charlotte Invasives Collaborative. So this needs review for inclusion in the budget.

Presentation to Selectboard for budget is in two weeks time.

7:55 - Budget Considerations

CVCA - Vermont Association of Conservation Commission meeting - money to attend that meeting
No - AVCC

Lewis Creek Association pitch for \$2700. Draft MOU reviewed. Krista stepping down as Program Administrator in October. If accepted tonight this will be presented to Selectboard. Level funding for next year, although elements within it have shifted. Actually scope has expanded but keeping spending level.

Mary concerned that CCC budget always appears unused by the time next year's funding is considered by CCC. Remediable? Perhaps not.

Budget Numbers Review

1. Water Quality Monitoring - \$2700
2. Mapping - \$500 - (\$1000 last year still to be spent) Updating significant wildlife habitat map.
 - a. Questions about ability to use the maps in question.
 - b. Data comes from satellites. Students input values for wildlife data, but it was never filled in.
 - c. I-Naturalist project was attempt to get those observations. Observations from Wildlife Camps. Although data exists, it's not going in. Possibly taking x-y coordinates from I-Naturalist AND/OR BIOFINDER to import data into the maps. Subject to volunteer error.
 - d. What are \$ implications?
 - i. Cost of printing out data layers so that this can be referenced against development projects when they are presented.
 - ii. Hours to read expert reports and how to translate into db entry.
 - iii. We have 12 out of 945 properties in Charlotte.
 - iv. Calibrating Biofinder against observations we have.
 - v. We can manage (Roel..) the translation from I-Naturalist into maps.
 - e. One map ready to print. How to get reimbursed. Or pre-pay.
 - f. A timed series of maps possible. Animations of changes can be very influential for planning commissions.
3. CHIC - Charlotte Invasives - \$1500 (proposed bump up from \$1000)
4. Data Entry & Ground Truthing - \$500. (\$750 in '16-'17).
 - a. For purchase of two more wildlife cameras.
5. Education and Outreach - \$500
 - a. Use to pay consultant on social marketing? Still a possibility.
 - b. Money was allocated to have on hand for sponsoring events.
 - c. Possible workshop in how to use I-Naturalist.
6. Web Development - \$0
 - a. Software acquisition or upgrades : Facebook, Town website page.
 - b. Derk went to web host - bare bones platform. The town's host is not very modern hosting company--more like hamsters and wheels. Database creation not possible on town's website.
7. Wildlife Road Crossing Signs - \$750 (\$150 last year)
 - a. \$750? needed for metal posts, per Linda's info from Junior

8. Conservation Commission Professional Development Attendance - \$250

9. Green-up Day - \$300

8:50 - "Conservation Currents" article due by end of the month prior. Mary is happy to do the next one soon, for September.. Krista will do one by end of September for October.

8:55 - Mary went to last Trails Committee meeting. Underpass Celebration scheduled for September 8.

BUDGET motion to pass, \$7000, \$550 more than last year to send to Selectboard. Passed.

Meeting adjourned 9:06 pm